

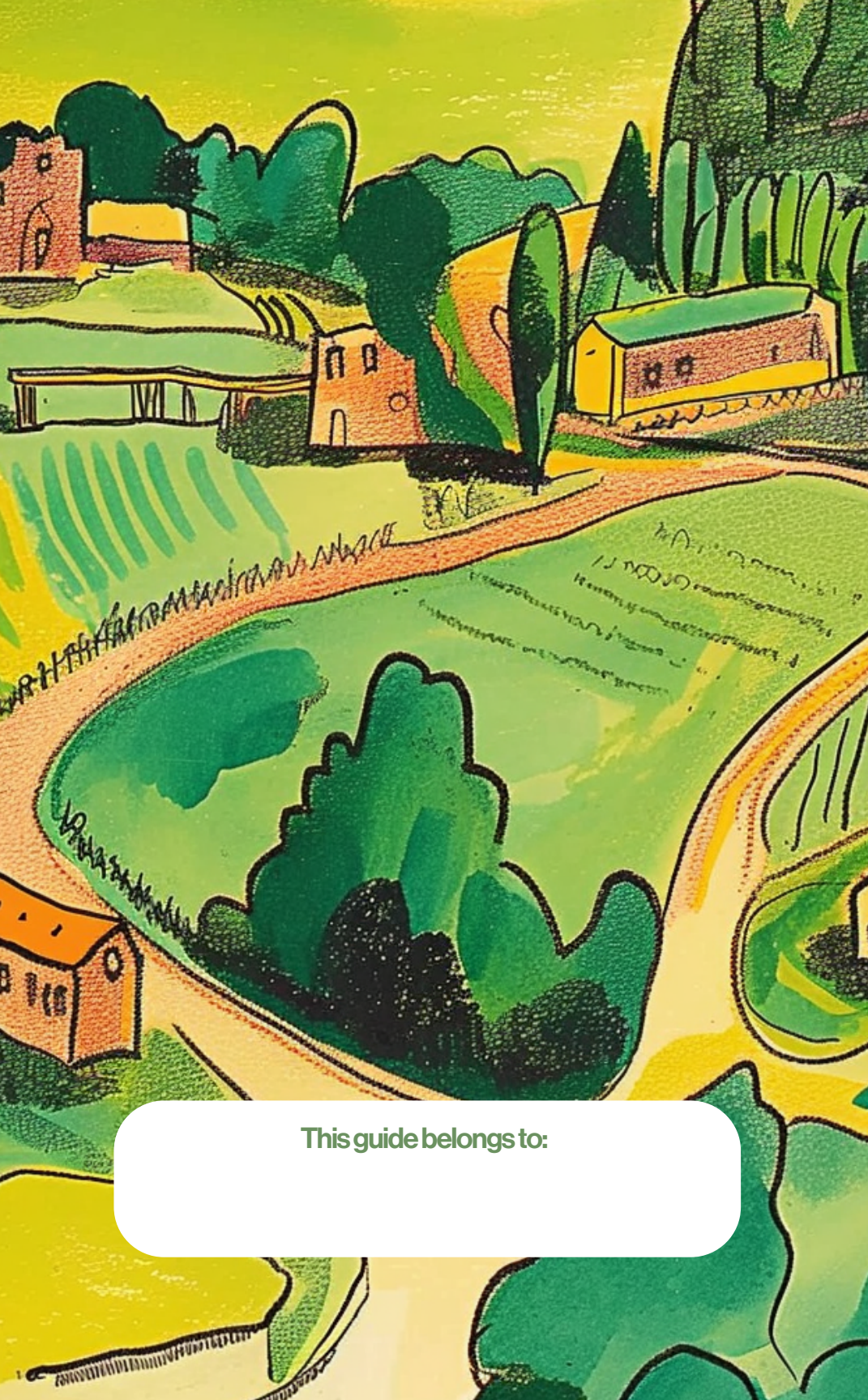
 NOW



# Journey Guide Vol. 6: The All In Committed Heart

God's Not Done...So, We're Not Done    Ephesians 3:20-21





This guide belongs to:



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## COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS TODAY

Today is Commitment Sunday for our NOW! Campaign. Our goal is for 100% of our church to participate by coming forward at the end of the service to bring your commitment. This is a spiritual high point of our campaign—a sacred moment. Lives will change because of your commitment. Let that sink in. Your life will change because you have prioritized building God's Kingdom. Let that sink in as well.

Today's commitments, along with those made over the next couple of weeks, are Faith Commitments. They are not mere pledges, which reflect what you can do. A Faith Commitment is one that God has impressed upon you, and it may be a struggle because He is calling you to a level of sacrifice that feels beyond your ability. Take heart; there is precedence for this in the example of the Macedonians, who gave according to their ability and even beyond it. They didn't have all the resources at hand when they made their commitments, but by faith, they trusted that God would provide what they needed to fulfill their commitments. So, let's exercise some big faith today!

Now, let's be real for a moment. There are likely at least three types of people represented during these next few weeks as we make our 2.5-year commitments to NOW!. First, there are those who have taken this journey seriously. You have prayed, planned, opened your hearts, and you're ready to respond. When we pray at the close of the service today, confirm with God what He is calling you to do.

Second, there are those whose hearts are open to God, but the busyness of life has crowded out His voice, leaving you feeling a bit unprepared. You may even be tempted to wait. But God will be faithful to you. At the end of our service, we will take time to look at our commitment cards, review the gift chart, pray, and listen for God's voice. We encourage you to be courageous in what God asks you to do.

Third, there are those of you who may feel reluctant. You might feel unprepared or have been avoiding the conversation, unsure if you can or want to make a commitment. I challenge you to let that hesitation go. Embrace what God wants to do for you, in you, and through you, and then take action.

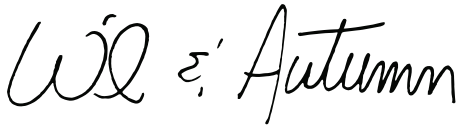
Why can Autumn and I encourage all of us to strive for 100% participation? Because of Philippians 4:17: "It's not the gift I seek, but the reward it releases in your life." Expect blessings from your commitment. God will deliver.

We also read in Luke 21:1-4: As Jesus looked up, He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she, out of her

poverty, put in all she had to live on.”

The economy of grace invites us to make our resources available to God. Remember the boy who gave his five loaves and two fish to Jesus, feeding thousands? Or Moses, who offered his staff when God asked him what was in his hand? How about the widow who gathered all the jars she had for Elisha? Each of these individuals simply made their resources available to God, and each played a part in an incredible miracle! As you give your resources to the mission of Jesus, He transforms our dollars and cents into redeemed lives, restored marriages, and healed hearts, among much more! Today, allow God to have your resources. Make them available. In doing so, you will find great joy and reward. We believe that as you write your commitment number on a card, it may feel scary, but that’s because you are exercising great faith. God will take care of you!

Pastor’s Wil and Autumn

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wil & Autumn". The letters are fluid and connected, with a small ampersand between the names.



# Five P's of a Good Commitment Decision



# Five P's of A Good Commitment Decision

The first P is **PRAYER** — Prayer starts it all. How can I know God's will for my life during this campaign without talking to Him?

*Luke 22:41-42: "And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, 'Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.'"* (NASB)

The second P is **PERSONAL** — It's about how I can glorify God with my decision, not about the actions of my friends or neighbors.

*John 21:20-22: "Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them—the one who had leaned back on His breast at the supper—and said, 'Lord, who is the one who betrays You?' Peter, therefore, seeing him, said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him, 'If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!'"* (NASB)

The third P is **PROPORTIONAL** — It's not about quantity; it's about my faith and the quality of my gift. It's not about how much I give, but how much it costs me.

*Mark 12:43-44: "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on."* (NASB)

The fourth P is **PLEASING** — It's about seeking a commitment that is pleasing to God. For most of us, it is easy to identify what is pleasing to us. It is much tougher to discern what is pleasing to God, which often causes us to struggle and stretch under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

*Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."* (NASB)

The fifth and final P is **PEACE** — It's about receiving peace through the knowledge that we have made a prayerful, personal, proportional commitment that is pleasing to God.

*Philippians 4:7: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (NASB)







**NOW!** is our two-year generosity campaign to lead 100% of the TFH Napa family to a place of 100% trust in God to raise \$4 million to provide a permanent home.



# Sermon Notes









# What's Your Number?



## WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

2 Corinthians 8:1-8

And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of giving

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Paul's challenge here is multi-faceted...

He is calling us to a radical reorientation of life and lifestyle so we can participate in sacrificial generosity.

He is calling us to surrender our resources to the point it makes us dependent upon God.

He is calling us to a level of generosity that changes us, changes the future of our church, and changes the eternity of people.

He is calling us to prove the sincerity of our love through our sacrificial generosity.

He is calling us to release control of our lives.

He is calling every believer to be a giver beyond their current level.

He is calling our sacrificial generosity to be governed by our heart rather than our head.

He is calling us to grow in the grace of giving, meaning that if your number is what you can do, then that's not the number, because your number will require grace, that is, the power of God enabling you to do that, over time, through His provision.

He is calling us to do something beyond what is reasonable, beyond our comfort, beyond our ability.

He is calling us to honor God with 100% of what we have been given.

He is calling us to trust His character because God will always make sure we will have a surplus that will exceed our sacrifice.

So, what number must you write on your card that makes you dependent upon God?

So, what number must you write on your card that moves you into priority giving to build God's Kingdom, moves you into a changed lifestyle for that purpose, that puts you in the position where God has to be your provider?

So, what number must you write on a card that says, "I am all in; I am honoring God with 100% of what I have been given?"

So, what number must I write on a card that says I am giving up something I want, something I need, and something that represents security?

That's your number!



# Devotionals

This is our final week of devotions. Use these reflections to strengthen your resolve. The enemy may try to discourage you this week; he wants to snatch your faith, cause you to hesitate, and instill fear in your heart. While you may have made a commitment, fear can replace faith and make you hesitant to give toward it. Recognize this for what it is: the devil is trying to stop you.

That is why we have planned a First Gift Offering on December 1. On that Sunday, we ask everyone to bring their first and best offering toward fulfilling their commitment. This is a powerful way to strengthen our faith, cast down the fear from the enemy, and declare our confidence in God, who will enable us to do what He has asked of us. So, start with something on December 1. If you haven't responded yet or made a commitment, use these devotions to prepare your heart and plan to make your commitment. Everyone can find a way to be a part of NOW!





# SUNDAY, DAY 36 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: MATTHEW 19:21-22

*Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.*

## REFLECT: THE CONSECRATED LIFE RUNS DEEPER THAN CULTURE

We live in a materialistic society where money often determines value and identity. Many times, it's easier to trust our retirement accounts more than God when it comes to our future. This desire for money, or the concern about not having enough, can overshadow our commitment to God and His mission. However, when we turn to Jesus, our identity is securely found in Him. He is our source; He never leaves us and never fails us.

What triggers cause you to overspend, obsess about not having enough, or prevent you from trusting God? Surrender those triggers and receive freedom from God.

**PRAYER: Father, show me where my trust is misplaced. Recalibrate my heart to fully trust in You. By making this commitment, I am demonstrating that I trust Your character and Your Word. However, it also feels a bit scary. Help me stay focused on the truth that You honor those who put their trust in You, so I need not worry or be afraid. Thank You. Amen.**

# MONDAY, DAY 37 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: PROVERBS 11:24-26

*The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.*

### REFLECT: THE CONSECRATED LIFE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN COMFORT

There is power in the life of a believer who is fully devoted to Christ. This person does not always seek the comfortable road; they first look for the Gospel Road. They understand that there is something more compelling than their own comfort. This ready and willing attitude to give flows from a heart that knows God is the ultimate Giver. Today, surrender your craving for comfort and open your heart to God's grace for giving.

**PRAYER:** Father, this commitment I have made is an expression of my devotion to You. Use it as a means to deepen my devotion, freeing me from the cultural influences that say my worth is tied to what I have or what I have done. My worth and value come from being in a relationship with You. I have opened my heart and resources to You for increased generosity. In a way, I am saying “no” to the standards of this earth and embracing Your Kingdom purposes. Amen.

# TUESDAY, DAY 38 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: ECCLESIASTES 3:11

*He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart.*

## REFLECT: THE CONSECRATED LIFE LASTS LONGER THAN TIME

The truth of eternal life fills the heart of every follower of Christ. It frames our entire perspective and reorients our priorities. It means that I can choose sacrifice over instant gratification. I can focus more on growing close to God than on my bank account getting bigger. It allows me to prioritize the unseen approval of heaven over earthly applause. Today, spend time worshiping the God who sets you free from all the idols that once controlled you.

**PRAYER: Jesus, I am grateful that You exchanged Your perfect life for my broken one. This is what I live for. Now I am free to use the resources You have given me to bless others and fuel the salvation of souls. Our commitment of resources in this life is contributing to an eternal population of souls in heaven. Thank You, God, for using our resources to make that happen. Amen.**

# WEDNESDAY, DAY 39 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

## REFLECT: A SURRENDERED HEART REDEFINES SACRIFICE

When we catch a glimpse of the power of God's grace, sacrifice takes on a new meaning. His grace inspires us to give ourselves first to the Lord. We stop struggling with whether we should give and begin to see everything as belonging to Him. He is the owner, and we are the stewards. When we commit resources to the local church, we act on the truth that we are stewards. Our culture tells us to "clutch" and "cling" to what we have, which reflects an owner's mentality. When we release our resources, we align ourselves with our identity as stewards. May we be found faithful in that.

**PRAYER:** Father, I lay my heart before You. I open my heart to the influence of Your grace so that I may have the power to be a good steward. I recognize that I will likely need Your ongoing strength to fulfill my role as a faithful steward. I thank You in advance for that strength. Amen.

# THURSDAY, DAY 40 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: LUKE 14:10

*If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.*

## REFLECT: WHAT HAS SUPREME VALUE IN MY HEART?

In today's reading passage, Jesus addresses the most important calculation of your life: What holds supreme value in your heart? He teaches that relationships, family, and even our own lives must not come first. Our plans, dreams, and desires need to take a backseat to following Him. Do the math! Being His disciple will cost everything. Honestly, our hearts long for this depth of commitment to Him. Today, consider what part of you may be hiding from this truth. What part of you is protecting "what's yours"? The reality is that absolute devotion leads to ultimate joy. Your commitment to our campaign reflects your heart's desire to put Jesus first, and joy should be a characteristic that emerges from this decision. Yes, there will be times when it is hard to follow through, but even in those challenging moments, joy will be present. It's God's Spirit encouraging you in your commitment.

**PRAYER: Father God, I pray that You will strengthen me and fill me with the joy from above that overwhelms me during times when I find myself wavering or thinking that the sacrifice is too much. May that joy steady me and be my reward. Thank You. Amen.**

# FRIDAY, DAY 41 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.*

## REFLECT: MY SACRIFICE RELEASES THE FRAGRANCE OF GOD

In Mark 14, we meet a woman who displayed extravagant devotion. She recognized a unique moment with Jesus and poured out what she had. Mary didn't simply make a donation to Jesus; she sacrificed in a way that impacted her financial future. What inspired this? Is it possible that she somehow glimpsed the sacrifice Jesus was about to make? The only truth powerful enough to motivate such sacrificial love is the truth of Jesus giving His life for mine.

In the same vein, recognize that your giving releases the fragrance of God. In the Old Testament, when Israel made their burnt offerings, God described it as a sweet fragrance coming before His throne. This is a wonderful way to view our giving: as a sweet fragrance offered to God.

**PRAYER: Father, I thank You that my giving releases the fragrance of the Gospel to those who come to know You through the ministries of our church. Additionally, it releases a fragrance to You. Take great delight, Father, in receiving that from me. Amen.**

# SATURDAY, DAY 42 DEVOTIONAL

## SCRIPTURE FOR THE DAY: HEBREWS 12:1-3

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*

## REFLECT: HIS LOVE MOVIVATES MY SACRIFICE

As followers of Christ, we are no longer motivated by guilt. In Christ, all striving for God's approval has ceased. Our choices are not based on cultural acceptance or personal convenience; instead, the love of God compels us. We live and give in direct proportion to what Christ has given us. Do you find yourself still responding out of fear, guilt, or anything other than God's love for you? Lay those burdens down today and receive a fresh filling of God's love.

**PRAYER: Father, I believe in the love You have for me. I open my heart to You fully right now, and I thank You for this journey we have been on. It is drawing me deeper into You, refocusing my priorities, and positioning me to be a blessing. Thank You. Amen.**

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# 9 Creative Ways to Give



Every person can meaningfully invest in what God is doing through this campaign. While there is no formula for what one might give, below are opportunities and strategies for giving that you can consider as you make your commitment:

### **CLIP & SNIP**

Clip those coupons! Saving \$30 per week on food purchases for two and half years would yield \$3,900!

### **KICK THAT HABIT**

Have a coffee shop habit? One specialty coffee per day for two and a half years equals around \$3,625.

### **DELAYED GRATIFICATION**

Wait for a movie to come out for free. Two trips to the theater per month for two people at an average of \$50 would equal \$1,500.

### **PRESS ONWARD**

Have a bill payment you are almost finished with? Commit to continue to “pay the bill” by redirecting the money to the NOW! campaign.

### **REFUND, BABY!**

Commit to give your income tax refund check each year.

### **H2O**

Drinking water at a restaurant instead of a soft drink at \$5 per week would be a minimum of \$651 over two and half years.

### **CUT OUT THE FAT**

Have premium movie channels in your cable or streaming packages? Cutting those out or even downgrading one “tier” in your package could save you nearly \$2,000!

### **FAMILY DEVOTION**

Fast one meal each week as a family. Missing one meal as a family dedicated to prayer at an average of \$50 is \$6,500 over two and half years.

### **GIVING ASSETS**

If an investment—like stocks, real estate, collectables, crypto, and other assets—has increased in value since its purchase and has been held for more than one year, then there may be tax advantages to transferring ownership of that asset to the church as a charitable donation. Giving the appreciated asset may eliminate potential capital gains taxes for the donor while still allowing the donor to receive the contribution credit for the current market value of the asset. Because of its tax-exempt status, The Father’s House can sell the asset and receive full market value less transaction costs.



# Some more FAQs



## **WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME TO DO?**

We are asking every person who calls The Father's House Napa home to seek God with the question, "Lord, what part should I play in following Your heart for our future?" As you seek God for direction, we ask that everyone fill out the commitment card and submit it on Sunday, November 10. Commitments can be fulfilled over the period from December 2024 to December 2026.

## **HOW LONG WILL WE BE RECEIVING COMMITMENTS?**

Sunday, November 10, is Commitment Sunday. A significant number of commitments will be made on that day. However, we understand that not everyone will be in town or ready to make their commitment. Take the time you need, and when you're ready, make your commitment. We will provide opportunities for commitments to be made over the next few weeks.

## **WHEN DO WE START GIVING TOWARD OUR COMMITMENT?**

On Sunday, December 1, we will have our NOW! First Fruits offering, which you might refer to as "Big Give Sunday." We are asking everyone in our church to plan to start their giving on that day. A special offering envelope will be available as a reminder to prepare your first gift. During the service, we will provide a moment to give in the usual ways: cash, check, and online.

## **WHEN WILL WE ANNOUNCE THE GRAND TOTAL?**

Glad you asked! On December 1, we are calling it Celebration Sunday. During those services, we will reveal the number of commitments made to our NOW! Campaign. More importantly, we will celebrate each and every gift—from the largest to the smallest—because each gift is given in faith to God, who sees our actions and rewards us. It takes all the gifts to meet our financial target.

## **CAN I GIVE WITHOUT FILLING OUT A COMMITMENT CARD?**

Yes, but we ask everyone to consider why they wouldn't fill out a card first. Every important commitment involves making a known commitment. A driver's license must be signed, mortgage papers require signatures, and birth certificates need to be signed. You get the idea. The things that are important to us require documentation. Your NOW! Commitment is just as important, if not more so, because it represents a spiritual commitment to God. While we don't ask for a signature, we do ask for your contact information and commitment number. This is essential. On a practical level, knowing what to expect in terms of commitments is important for our lending partners and helps us determine when we might make progress on expanding our kids' area.

## **WHEN DOES MY FAITH COMMITMENT BEGIN AND END?**

The NOW! Campaign runs from December 2024 to December 2026. We are also asking everyone to prayerfully consider bringing their first gift offering on Sunday, December 1. The purpose of this offering is to give the campaign a healthy boost right from the start. We encourage you to pray about giving your best gift on that day.



# Celebration Sunday & First Fruits Offering

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

On this day we will announce the grand total of commitments and launch our giving with a first fruits offering. Plan to celebrate what 100% participation looks like!





# God's Not Done... So, We're Not Done

**Journey Guide Volume 6**  
**Thanks for joining us on the journey!**